

CLAIMS:

1. A method for facilitating the on-line auction of one or more services, the method comprising:

obtaining a service item for auction;

5 managing an on-line auction for the service item, wherein the managing comprises:

receiving on-line bids for the service item;

closing the on-line auction for the service item;

10 indicating one or more winning bids and one or more winning bidders.

2. A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising receiving compensation from one or more members of a group selected from an auction bidder, an auction participant, a service seller, a service buyer, a service item
15 placer, and a member of an auction.

3. A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising facilitating real-time provision of the service item for the one or more winning bidder, wherein the real-time provision of the service item occurs proximally near in
20 time to the closing.

4. A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising providing one or more computing systems that perform the obtaining and managing.

5. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the obtaining further comprises receiving information related to the service item via a communications network.

6. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the managing further comprises receiving real-time bids for the service item via a communications network.

7. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the service item is a service.

8. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the service item is a proximity-independent service.

9. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the service item is a proximity-independent service selected from a group consisting of:

- advertising;
- advertising in movie houses;
- advertising in broadcast media;
- advertising on the radio;
- advertising on television;
- advertising on an Internet Web site;
- advertising in printed publications;
- Web page design;
- patent application drafting;
- brokerage and financial services;
- shipping;

- graphic design;
- computer programming;
- legal services;
- Internet access service;
- Internet Web page hosting;
- Internet domain name hosting;
- Internet E-mail hosting;
- Internet data storage hosting.

10 10. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the service item is a proximity-independent service that is intended to be performed for the one or more winning bidders.

15 11. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the service item is a service that is intended to be performed by the one or more winning bidders.

20 12. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the service item is a proximity-independent service that is intended to be performed by the one or more winning bidders.

25 13. An on-line marketplace for auctioning services, the marketplace comprising:

 a services auction-block computing system configured to obtain a service item for auction;

 an auctioneer computing system configured to manage an on-line auction for the service item.

14. A marketplace as recited in claim 13, wherein the auctioneer computing system is further configured to:

receive on-line bids for the service item;

close the on-line auction for the service item;

5 indicate one or more winning bids and one or more winning bidders.

15. A marketplace as recited in claim 13, wherein the service item is a service.

10 16. A marketplace as recited in claim 13, wherein the service item is a proximity-independent service.

17. A marketplace as recited in claim 13, wherein the service item is a proximity-independent service selected from a group consisting of:

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- advertising;
 - advertising in movie houses;
 - advertising in broadcast media;
 - advertising on the radio;
 - advertising on television;

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 - advertising on an Internet Web site;
 - advertising in printed publications;
 - Web page design;
 - shipping;
 - patent application drafting;

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 - graphic design;
 - brokerage and financial services;
 - computer programming;

- legal services;
- Internet access service;
- Internet Web page hosting;
- Internet domain name hosting;
- Internet E-mail hosting;
- Internet data storage hosting.

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18. A marketplace as recited in claim 13, wherein the service item is a proximity-independent service that is intended to be performed for the one or more winning bidders.

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19. A marketplace as recited in claim 13, wherein the service item is a service that is intended to be performed by the one or more winning bidders.

20. A marketplace as recited in claim 13, wherein the service item is a proximity-independent service that is intended to be performed by the one or more winning bidders.

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21. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions that, when executed by a computer, performs a method for facilitating the on-line auction of one or more services, the method comprising:

obtaining a service item for auction;

5 managing an on-line auction for the service item, wherein the managing comprises:

receiving on-line bids for the service item;

closing the on-line auction for the service item;

10 indicating one or more winning bids and one or more winning bidders.

22. A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 21, wherein the method further comprising facilitating real-time provision of the service item for the one or more winning bidder, wherein the real-time provision of the
15 service item occurs proximally near in time to the closing.

23. A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 21, wherein the service item is a service.

20 24. A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 21, wherein the service item is a proximity-independent service.

25 25. A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 21, wherein the service item is a proximity-independent service selected from a group consisting of:

- advertising;
- advertising in movie houses;

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- advertising in broadcast media;
- advertising on the radio;
- shipping;
- advertising on television;
- advertising on an Internet Web site;
- advertising in printed publications;

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- Web page design;
- patent application drafting;
- graphic design;
- computer programming;
- legal services;
- brokerage and financial services;
- Internet access service;
- Internet Web page hosting;
- Internet domain name hosting;

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- Internet E-mail hosting;
- Internet data storage hosting.

